(b) and (c) The Government of India had provided a list of 79 victims, as obtained from the survivors of the tragedy, to the Government of Punjab in January 1997. The Government of Punjab had sanctioned *ex-gratia* payment of Rs. 50,000 to the family of each victim.

Transferring Malta Boat Tragedy case to European Tribunal

5058. SHRI B. P. SINGHAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would take the Malta Boat Tragedy case to the European Tribunal based in Brussels (Belgium) for the claims of the victims families and also pursue the claim cases filed by the victims families in Italian Courts;

(b) whether Government would handover the CBI case against the 27 Indian culprits going on in Delhi to a Special Court for speedy disposal; and

(c) whether Government would sponsor the endeavors of the Malta Boat Tragedy Probe Mission and give official recognition to the NGOs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA) : (a) There is no proposal to take the Malta Boat Tragedy case to the European Tribunal based in Brussels, Belgium. The preliminary hearing of the case in Italy is scheduled for May 27, 2003. The relatives of the victims may, at that stage, implaed themselves as plaintiffs and sue for damages.

(b) As the case is currently being heard by the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Delhi, there is no proposal to hand it over to a Special Court.

(c) While the Government has afforded all possible assistance to the Malta Boat Tragedy Probe Mission in pursuing the interests of the victims and their families, it does not feel that there is a need for official recognition of the NGO for this purpose.

Amendment in the Labour Laws

5059. SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce amendments in the Labour Laws seeking to open core and non-core sectors in the contract labour.